

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1 – 101 cancelled

102. (Currently Amended) An aliquot carrier comprising a fluid-retaining aperture and a deposit device, said fluid-retaining aperture being constructed and cooperatively arranged with said deposit device so that said deposit device can transit said fluid-retaining aperture to pick up a drop of fluid to be deposited on a deposit surface, internal surfaces defining said aperture having a surface roughness that increases its wettability.

103. (Original) The carrier of claim 102 in which the surface roughness is produced by a technique selected from the class of sanding, broaching, machining, screw or knurl forming, coating or forming the surface of particles that provide surface roughness as by sintering or molding.

104. (Original) The carrier of claim 102 in which the surface roughness is at least 100 microinch.

Claims 105 – 115 cancelled

116. (Previously Presented) The carrier of claim 102, wherein said deposit device includes a pin.

117. (Previously Presented) The carrier of claim 102, wherein said fluid-retaining aperture forms a mobile local fluid storage device generally movable with said deposit device.

118. (Previously Presented) The carrier of claim 117, wherein said mobile local fluid storage device is constructed and arranged to be replenished from a remotely located relatively large reservoir.

119. (Previously Presented) The carrier of claim 118, wherein said large reservoir is constructed to store a multiplicity of isolated fluid volumes.

120. (Previously Presented) The carrier of claim 117, wherein said mobile local fluid storage device is constructed to be inserted into a supply well of a well plate.

121. (Previously Presented) The carrier of claim 102, wherein said fluid-retaining aperture is formed by a circular ring.

122. (Previously Presented) The carrier of claim 102, wherein said fluid-retaining aperture is formed by an element including a multi-turn helical shape.

123. (Currently Amended) The carrier of claim 102, wherein said fluid-retaining aperture is formed by a cylindrical ring ~~closed cylinder~~.

124. (Previously Presented) The carrier of claim 102, wherein said fluid-retaining aperture is formed by an open rectangular ring.

125. (Previously Presented) The carrier of claim 102, wherein said fluid-retaining aperture is formed by a helical member.

126. (New) The carrier of claim 102, wherein said fluid-retaining aperture is constructed for immersion into a well of conventional 96 well plate.

127. (New) The carrier of claim 102, wherein said fluid-retaining aperture is constructed for immersion into a well of conventional 385 well plate.

128. (New) An aliquot carrier comprising a fluid-retaining aperture mounted on a support rod and constructed to move with a deposit device over a deposit surface while

carrying fluid, said fluid-retaining aperture including internal surfaces defining an opening constructed and oriented to enable a tip of said deposit device to traverse said opening and pick up a drop of said fluid to be deposited on said deposit surface, wherein said internal surfaces defining said aperture have a surface increasing wettability of said carrier.

129. (New) The carrier of claim 128, wherein said deposit device includes a pin.

130. (New) The carrier of claim 128, wherein said fluid-retaining aperture forms a mobile local fluid storage device generally movable with said deposit device.

131. (New) The carrier of claim 130, wherein said mobile local fluid storage device is constructed and arranged to be replenished from a remotely located relatively large reservoir.

132. (New) The carrier of claim 131, wherein said large reservoir is constructed to store a multiplicity of isolated fluid volumes.

133. (New) The carrier of claim 130, wherein said mobile local fluid storage device is constructed to be inserted into a supply well of a well plate.

134. (New) The carrier of claim 128, wherein said fluid-retaining aperture is formed by a circular ring.

135. (New) The carrier of claim 128, wherein said fluid-retaining aperture is formed by an element including a multi-turn helical shape.

136. (New) The carrier of claim 128, wherein said fluid-retaining aperture is formed by a cylindrical ring.

137. (New) The carrier of claim 128, wherein said fluid-retaining aperture is formed by an open rectangular ring.

138. (New) The carrier of claim 128, wherein said fluid-retaining aperture is formed by a helical member.

139. (New) The carrier of claim 128, wherein said fluid-retaining aperture is constructed for immersion into a well of conventional 96 well plate.

140. (New) The carrier of claim 128, wherein said fluid-retaining aperture is constructed for immersion into a well of conventional 385 well plate.

141. (New) An aliquot carrier comprising a fluid-retaining aperture mounted on a support rod and constructed to move with a deposit device over a deposit surface while carrying fluid, said fluid-retaining aperture including internal surfaces defining an opening constructed and oriented to enable a tip of said deposit device to traverse said opening and pick up a drop of said fluid to be deposited on said deposit surface by a linear displacement of said deposit device with respect to said fluid retaining aperture.

142. (New) The carrier of claim 141, wherein said deposit device includes a pin.

143. (New) The carrier of claim 141, wherein said fluid-retaining aperture forms a mobile local fluid storage device generally movable with said deposit device.

144. (New) The carrier of claim 142, wherein said mobile local fluid storage device is constructed and arranged to be replenished from a remotely located relatively large reservoir.

145. (New) The carrier of claim 144, wherein said large reservoir is constructed to store a multiplicity of isolated fluid volumes.

146. (New) The carrier of claim 143, wherein said mobile local fluid storage device is constructed to be inserted into a supply well of a well plate.

147. (New) The carrier of claim 142, wherein said fluid-retaining aperture is formed by a circular ring.

148. (New) The carrier of claim 142, wherein said fluid-retaining aperture is formed by an element including a multi-turn helical shape.

149. (New) The carrier of claim 142, wherein said fluid-retaining aperture is formed by a cylindrical ring.

150. (New) The carrier of claim 142, wherein said fluid-retaining aperture is formed by an open rectangular ring.

151. (New) The carrier of claim 142, wherein said fluid-retaining aperture is formed by a helical member.

152. (New) The carrier of claim 142, wherein said fluid-retaining aperture is constructed for immersion into a well of conventional 96 well plate.

153. (New) The carrier of claim 142, wherein said fluid-retaining aperture is constructed for immersion into a well of conventional 385 well plate.